

'Gerhard Schröder: Keep on negotiating' from Communauté européenne

Caption: On 17 April 1962, following the meeting, in Paris, of the Foreign Ministers of the Six, in order to discuss the political organisation of Europe, Germany's Gerhard Schroeder makes a statement in which he encourages the continuation of the negotiations.

Source: Communauté européenne. Bulletin mensuel d'information. dir. de publ. Fontaine, François. Mai 1962, n° 5; 6e année. Paris: Service d'Information des Communautés Européennes. "Poursuivre la négociation", auteur:Schroeder, Gerhard , p. 5.

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Mr Schröder, German Foreign Minister:

‘Keep on negotiating’

‘The existing European Communities must be supplemented by close political union between the Member States. All the partners agree on this and have done so from the outset. In spite of this, the Conference has failed to reach agreement, and this is due to two factors: on the one hand, there are different points of view concerning the extent of European political union. Some Member States want to take the process further than others, but these difficulties are not insurmountable. We must keep in mind the proverb “the best is often the enemy of the good”.

The other divergence of views concerns the participation of the United Kingdom. Some of the Six governments believe that the Treaty on Political Union should be signed only when we are certain that the United Kingdom will join the European Economic Community. Other governments, including those of Germany and France, would like to see political union move forward in the firm hope that the United Kingdom will join both the European Economic Community and the political union. I truly hope that these enduring differences of opinion can be overcome ... We must keep on negotiating with the United Kingdom.’

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